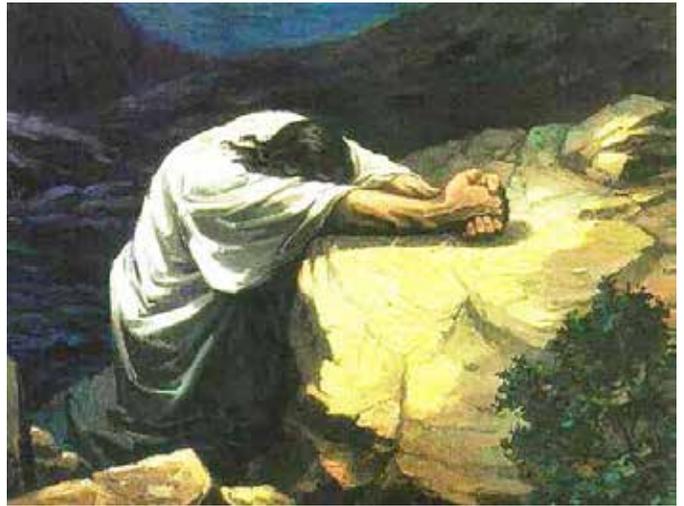


"Brethren, Pray For Us." 1 Thessalonians 5:25 KJV



There is no greater expression of love than fervent intercessory prayer for another. Our Lord demonstrated His Care and Love for us by praying to His Father in the presence of His disciples, *“And now come I to Thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they (His disciples) might have my Joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them Thy Word (Himself); and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that Thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from The Evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through Thy Truth: Thy Word is Truth. As Thou hast sent Me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I Sanctify Myself, that they also might be sanctified through the Truth. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word.”* He communed in fervent prayer in the Garden hours before His betrayal and death. *“He was withdrawn from [His disciples] about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed, saying, ‘Father, if Thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but Thine, be done.’ And there appeared an angel unto Him from Heaven, strengthening Him. And being in an agony He prayed more earnestly: and His sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.”* Have you ever prayed so fervently that God sent you an angel? Even in the midst of extreme agony on the Cross He prayed for His tormentors! *“Father, forgive them! They know not what they do!”* We may utter a plethora of kindness with our lips to others, but until we fervently intercede for our fellow pilgrims, we have no true love for them, nor is our faith what it should be. The prayer we utter when alone with God shows our true faith and character to God. And, after all, isn't He our final Judge? Do we spend our time in prayer alone engrossed in our own needs and desires, or do we selflessly intercede and supplicate on behalf of our brethren in Christ? To be Christ-like is to be selfless. *“Seek ye first...His righteousness.”* What we need will be provided if we seek the face of God for others ahead of our own desires. The true nature of Love and faith is hidden in our prayer life. If we are too busy to pray in the “prayer closet,” we're too busy. Jesus spent His last hours in prayer, not on His own behalf, but on behalf of those He loved. *“I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me.”* He was more concerned for the safety of His Loved ones than for His own impending terror. *“Holy Father, keep through Thine Own Name those whom Thou hast given Me, that they may be one, as We Are.”* He prayed for their future happiness and joy. *“Father, I will that they also, whom Thou hast given me, be with Me where I am; that they may behold My Glory, which Thou hast given Me: for Thou Lovedst Me before the foundation of the world.”* Our Saviour has set the benchmark for our prayer life. We would do well to emulate Him. It's not what we say, but what we pray that counts!

True love is not what we may say,  
Our love is shown by what we pray,  
Our Lord has shown for us the way,  
We, by His side, should ever stay. –CGP

Do you truly love your siblings in the faith, or do you just say you do? The Lord knows your heart. You may fool others, but you'll never fool Him! You may not have what you need, because you haven't prayed for the needs of others as you should. What does God know that others don't? *“Brethren, pray for us.”*

*“Behold, the Eye of the LORD is upon them that fear Him, upon them that Hope in His Mercy;” Psalms 33:18 KJV*